

HOUSE RESOLUTION 186

By Turner J

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Otis Little, Sr., of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William Otis Little, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Little, Sr., was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Little was a talented baseball player in the Negro Baseball League, playing catcher from 1952 to 1957 for the Memphis Red Sox and the Kansas City Monarchs; and

WHEREAS, after his playing career, Mr. Little became a teacher and coach for Memphis City Schools; he coached high school basketball and baseball for twenty-eight years and officiated basketball and football games in the Southwest Athletic Conference for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding coach, Mr. Little was voted Coach of the Year and elected to the Vanguard Club’s Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998; his teams won two city basketball titles and three high school baseball championships; and

WHEREAS, William Little also pursued his enthusiasm for athletic competition as the sports editor for the *Tri-State Defender* for more than fifty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Little earned a Bachelor of Science degree from LeMoyne-Owen College and a Master of Education degree from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, William Little was an active and devout communicant of St. Augustine Catholic Church, a member of the church's Men's Club, and a member of The Loafers, Inc., a men's social club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Little will be dearly missed by his children, William O. Little II, Jacqueline Hall, and Lillian Martin; by his sister, Louise Little Jones; by four grandsons; and by seven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, William Little, Sr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of William Otis Little, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Little.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.